

Targets we set for ourselves will advance our progress toward our goal of improving indoor air quality in homes, schools, and office buildings.

External Factors

Our ability to achieve Goal 4 and its objectives depends on several factors over which the Agency has only partial control or influence. For example, achievement of our commitment to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in children to fewer than 200,000 children by 2007 would be accomplished in conjunction with full implementation of the strategy published by the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risk and Safety to Children in February, 2000, *Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning: A Federal Strategy Targeting Lead Paint Hazards*.

A number of external factors will also impact EPA's success in pollution prevention. For example, the number of inspections, risk assessments, and abatements performed to reduce the risks from lead will depend on availability of funding from other federal agencies and programs. Similarly, EPA's progress in improving indoor air is dependent on participation by other federal, state, tribal, industry, and nonprofit organizations. The success of EPA's Tribal Program relies heavily on state and tribal cooperation.

The strength of economic growth will also impact our ability to meet our pollution-prevention and risk-reduction objectives. A strong economy increases consumption and can lead to increased waste generation. Additionally, EPA relies on public outreach, incentives, and voluntary actions by individuals (e.g., homeowners, school administrators, parents, building owners) to protect human health and the natural environment.

Goal 5: Better Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Waste Sites, and Emergency Response

America's wastes will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and the natural environment. EPA will work to clean up previously polluted sites, restore them to uses appropriate for surrounding communities, and respond to and prevent waste-related or industrial accidents.

Importance of This Goal

Improper waste management and disposal threaten human health and the maintenance of healthy ecosystems. Uncontrolled hazardous and toxic substances, including radioactive waste, migrate to the air, groundwater, and surface water—contaminating drinking water supplies for communities located miles from a waste site and potentially causing acute illnesses or chronic diseases. These circumstances present unique health threats to sensitive populations, such as children and the elderly, and tribal communities that follow subsistence lifestyles. They can also significantly damage other natural resources and sensitive ecosystems. To protect against these risks, EPA has developed and implemented policies to clean up active and inactive waste disposal sites; promote safe waste storage, treatment, and disposal; and prevent spills and releases of toxic materials.



The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) provide the legal authority for most of EPA's work toward this goal. EPA and its partners use Superfund authority to clean up uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites and return them to productive use when possible. The Agency's Brownfields Program encourages the cleanup and redevelopment of idle and abandoned industrial and commercial properties that are not on the National Priorities List (NPL) by addressing concerns such as environmental liability and cleanup, infrastructure declines, and changing development priorities. Under RCRA, EPA works in partnership with states and tribes to address risks associated with leaking underground storage tanks (LUSTs) and with hazardous and nonhazardous waste generation and management at active facilities. EPA also uses the authority of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to protect against spills and releases of hazardous materials.

Objectives

- By 2005, EPA and its federal, state, tribal, and local partners will reduce or control the risk to human health and the environment at more than 374,000 contaminated Superfund, RCRA, underground storage tank (UST), and brownfield sites and have the planning and preparedness capabilities to respond successfully to all known emergencies to reduce the risk to human health and the environment. (Total comprises 1,105 NPL sites; 1,714 RCRA facilities; 370,000 UST cleanups initiated or completed; and 1,500 brownfield properties.)
- By 2005, EPA and its federal, state, tribal, and local partners will ensure that more than 277,000 facilities are managed according to the practices that prevent releases to the environment. (Total comprises 6,500 RCRA hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities, and municipal solid waste landfills; 264,000 USTs; and 7,100 oil facilities.)

Results We Intend to Achieve

EPA strives to apply the fastest, most effective waste management and cleanup methods available, while involving affected communities in the decision-making process. Waste management techniques include recycling, land disposal, and combustion; however, different wastes require different treatment and disposal methods. Decisions about cleanup are based not only on technical considerations, but with community, human health, and environmental concerns in mind. We expect to achieve the following specific accomplishments:

- By 2005, cleanup of 370,000 LUST sites will be completed or initiated under the supervision of EPA and its state or tribal partners.
- By 2005, EPA and its partners will reduce the risks that Superfund sites pose to public health and the environment by (1) completing construction at a total of 1,105 NPL sites; (2) conducting an annual average of 300 Superfund emergency responses and removal actions to address significant hazardous substance releases; (3) determining if Superfund cleanup is needed at 85 percent of the sites entered into the Superfund site data base (CERCLIS); (4) maximizing potentially responsible party (PRP) participation in conducting/funding response actions; and (5) meeting statutory deadlines for federal facility activities.
- By 2005, EPA will continue to maximize the participation of PRPs in conducting/funding response actions at Superfund sites through the application of enforcement and settlement authorities while promoting fairness during the enforcement process.

Based on the urgency of the situation and/or the capabilities of the PRPs, EPA will optimize PRP removals. Since 1992, responsible parties have performed or financed over 70 percent of the new remedial construction starts at Superfund sites, and EPA's goal is to maintain or increase that level of participation. In addition, EPA will address cost recovery at 100 percent of all NPL and non-NPL sites with total past costs equal to or greater than \$200,000 which need to be addressed prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations.

- Through 2005, EPA will enter into an Interagency Agreement with the responsible federal agency at all federal facilities as soon as possible after listing on the NPL but no later than 180 days after completion of the first remedial investigation and feasibility study.
- By 2005, 95 percent of 1,714 high-priority RCRA facilities will have human exposure to toxins controlled and 70 percent of these facilities will have toxic releases to groundwater controlled.
- Through 2005, EPA will provide improved methods and dose-response models for estimating risks from complex mixtures contaminating soils and groundwater; provide improved methods for measuring, monitoring, and characterizing complex wastes in soils and groundwater; and develop more cost-effective and reliable technologies for cleanup of contaminated soils and groundwater. Also, through 2005, EPA will demonstrate/verify, via the Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation (SITE) program, more cost-effective technologies for remediation and characterization of contaminated soils, sediments, and groundwater, and more cost-effective restoration/rehabilitation of ecosystems impacted by these sources.
- By 2005, EPA and its state, tribal, and local partners will facilitate the redevelopment of 400 brownfields communities by providing technical and financial assistance resulting in \$3 billion of leveraged redevelopment funds, generation of 6,500 jobs, and initiation of 2,500 site assessments.
- Through 2005, EPA will respond to 100 percent of requests provided to EPA from other federal agencies to facilitate and assist with the transfer of federal properties for use, reuse, or redevelopment.
- By 2005, 50 percent of the nation's largest metropolitan areas (having populations greater than 1 million) will have been trained and equipped to respond effectively to terrorist events that involve chemical, biological, or radiological agents.
- By 2005, the annual number of confirmed releases from USTs will not exceed 6,500, in comparison to the 24,000 reported in FY 1997.
- By 2005, of the facilities that have submitted risk management plans identifying their chemical risks and processes, 20 percent of those facilities that pose significant risk will have reduced their potential of having a major chemical accident. Local communities will incorporate facility risk information into their emergency preparedness and community right-to-know programs.
- By 2005, 7,100 facilities will be in compliance with oil pollution prevention regulations and, therefore, better prepared to prevent oil spills, and the consequences of spills to environmentally and economically sensitive areas will be significantly lessened by pre-spill contingency planning by EPA and its federal, state, tribal, and local government partners. Each year, all

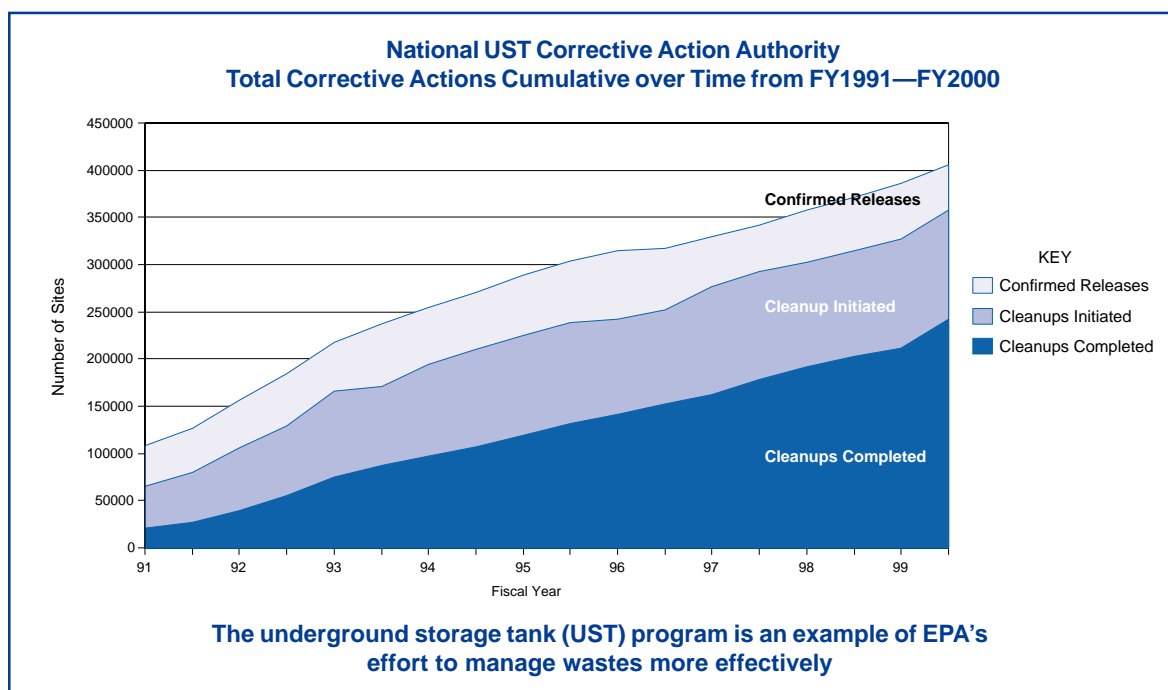
significant oil spills in the inland zone will be responded to in an effective manner by the responsible party, the state or local spill responders, or EPA.

- Through 2005, EPA will provide integrated, multimedia, multipathway exposure and risk methods and models for assessing the risks from waste facilities and provide improved techniques to monitor, control, and prevent releases during waste management.
- By 2005, EPA and its partners will prevent radioactive releases into the environment by safely managing and disposing of all EPA-regulated radioactive waste.
- By 2005, at least 80 percent of hazardous waste management facilities and 100 percent of municipal solid waste facilities will have controls in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater.

Means and Strategies

By meeting these objectives, EPA will have made significant progress toward achieving our long-term goal of promoting better waste management, restoring contaminated waste sites, and preventing waste-related or industrial accidents. Agency research to support safe waste management will continue to yield cost-effective and innovative technologies and scientifically sound approaches for site cleanup. To achieve our long-term goals, EPA is committed to working efficiently with states, tribes, and stakeholders to make the most of available resources.

EPA will continue to complete construction at NPL sites and oversee cleanups at PRP-lead and federal facility sites to reduce risks to human health. We will rely on our “enforcement first” policy, ensuring cleanup by responsible parties through the successful implementation of administrative reforms. We will strongly encourage PRP participation, especially for new construction starts at non-federal NPL sites, and will continue to emphasize cost recovery.



RCRA corrective action implementation at hazardous waste management facilities will remain one of EPA's highest priorities. The corrective action program will focus on controlling human exposure to toxins and groundwater releases at more than 1,700 high-priority facilities jointly identified by EPA regions and their state partners. EPA regional offices will work with states and tribes to implement the RCRA Cleanup Reforms initiative, encouraging cleanups, reducing impediments to cleanup actions, enhancing state and stakeholder involvement, and exploring policy changes regarding liability concerns to further encourage facility cleanup and reuse. We intend to work closely with state partners and the regulated community to ensure program flexibility and develop practical approaches through comprehensive training, outreach, application of new enforcement tools, and enhanced community involvement through greater public access to information.

The UST program will continue to support state and tribal efforts to improve compliance with all UST requirements (such as leak detection and the 1998 deadline requirements to upgrade, replace, or close old tanks) and to reduce the backlog of cleanups at UST sites with confirmed releases. To accomplish this, state, tribal, and federal UST programs will use multiple tools to ensure that systems are working as intended and operation and maintenance improvements are in place and functioning. Programs will also promote the use of risk-based decision making and expanded use of pay-for-performance cleanups in which a reduction in contamination is demonstrated for a fixed price. Finally, the UST program will support redeveloping abandoned or idle UST sites (also known as USTFields) and preventing or addressing contamination from oxygenates in gasoline such as methyl tertiary butyl ether.

EPA is committed to integrating economic revitalization considerations into the process of

cleaning up abandoned, inactive, and contaminated waste sites and other properties, and we will take full advantage of Community-Based Environmental Protection and other available tools to do so. The Brownfields Program will continue working with states and local communities to assess, clean up, and reuse former industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by potential environmental contamination, liability, or other concerns.

RCRA corrective action and UST programs will continue to identify instances where redevelopment of contaminated sites is complicated by regulatory or programmatic impediments. EPA will work with its partners and stakeholders to overcome these barriers through the development of streamlined, tailored, and innovative approaches to permitting and remediation. The Superfund Program will continue to implement the Superfund redevelopment initiative by identifying during the assessment phase sites that can be returned to productive use once cleanup is completed; allaying liability concerns through the issuance of comfort/status letters and prospective purchaser agreements; and working with communities and other stakeholders to ensure that these sites are "recycled" back into productive use. Management, response, and preparedness programs will target special needs on tribal lands, incorporating cultural values into decision making, supporting the closure of open dumps, and building capacity of tribal waste management and response organizations.

Relating Annual Performance Goals to Strategic Objectives

EPA's long-term performance under this goal will be measured according to progress in achieving milestones that waste management, response, prevention, and preparedness programs have established through 2005. Annual performance goals, supported by a

variety of measures, are determined each year and provide a limited set of data to demonstrate accomplishments leading to long-term strategic objectives. Examples of our annual performance goals under Goal 5 include the number of (1) construction completions at Superfund NPL sites; (2) high-priority RCRA facilities with controls in place to prevent human exposures and toxic releases to groundwater; (3) hazardous and municipal solid waste facilities with controls in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater; (4) UST cleanups completed and USTs in compliance with leak detection and 1998 upgrading, replacement, or closure requirements; and (5) leveraging of redevelopment dollars and provision of community assistance through the Brownfields Program. These and other annual goals relate directly to the results that we intend to achieve under Goal 5, and ultimately, to our objectives of reducing or controlling risk to human health and the environment at more than 374,000 contaminated sites and ensuring that the more than 277,000 facilities are managed according to practices that prevent dangerous releases to the environment.

External Factors

There are a number of external factors that could substantially impact the Agency's ability to achieve objectives under this goal. These include heavy reliance on state partnerships, application of new environmental technology, commitment by other federal agencies, and statutory barriers.

The 2005 target of 1,105 Superfund construction completions is dependent on the performance of other federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, as are the establishment of the Restoration Advisory Boards/Site-Specific Advisory Boards and other cleanup activities. In addition, the Agency's goals of construction completions, cost recovery, and maximizing

PRP participation are heavily dependent on the progress of PRP negotiations, the activities of states' voluntary cleanup and Superfund programs, agreements with states and tribes, and the nature of contamination at NPL sites.

For the RCRA and UST programs, achievement of the release prevention and cleanup objectives and attainment of our 2005 targets will depend heavily on the participation of states that have been authorized or approved to be the primary implementors of these programs.

For the risk management and preparedness programs, the Agency recognizes that accident prevention and response, as well as preparedness for environmental terrorist incidents, are inherently local activities. To succeed, the program relies on the commitment and accomplishments of various partners and stakeholders, including industry, state and local government, and other federal agencies. EPA's success will depend on the willingness and ability of these partners and stakeholders to deliver on their commitments and obligations. EPA plays a key role, but we neither control the resources nor set the priorities that could ensure all federal, state, and local participants are engaged at a level sufficient to meet our commitments.